

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production,  
Processing, and Handling of Food" 45

Dear FDA people,

As a taxpaying citizen of the United States, I demand to have irradiation information on all food, whether processed, packaged, or grown and harvested for sale, and in all food-serving establishments, if that food has been subjected to nuclear radiation. And that disclosure should be permanently exempt from withdrawal and/or expiration.

All people of the United States should know what their food consists of and how it was processed so that they can make intelligent decisions on what food to purchase.

When I shop for groceries I always read ingredient labeling to make sure I get what I pay for and nothing else.

When people buy prescription drugs, they are informed on the side-effects, on whether drugs can be taken together or separately, as well as the benefits of that prescription.

Toothpaste that contains Fluoride has a warning on the back of each tube that states, "...call the poison control center immediately if you swallow toothpaste". Over 50 years have gone by without that disclaimer on fluoridated toothpaste tubes, and just recently, manufacturers have diligently made sure that that warning is on each and every tube to escape law suits of unimaginable size.

My mom said to me when I was a little kid, "Don't play with your food, Joel". And I want to tell the intelligent people at the FDA, "Don't play with our labeling", keep us well-informed with food labeling that describes each component irradiated. The label must also include the RADURA symbol and the statement that, "This food product was processed with irradiation from nuclear by-products", and NOT an ambiguous one like, "Electronic Pasteurization" or "Cold Pasteurization" or "Ion particle whatever pasteurization". Because any statement other than an exact one of truth is misleading.

And finally, ask your kids if they would want the truth or just to be mislead for 50 years.

Give my best to your families,

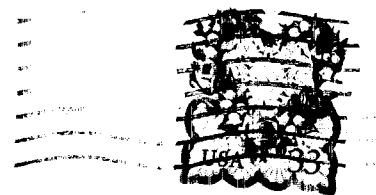


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